



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, January 26, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2: Recent Detection in the US - PPQ and State regulatory officials are continuing to hold, destroy and dispose of the three geranium varieties produced at a Guatemalan production facility that are potentially infected with *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2.

APHIS scientists positively confirmed *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 in a water effluent sample collected from geraniums on January 13, 2004, from the same Guatemalan geranium production facility from which the three Americana varieties are being sought and destroyed.

An APHIS scientist will be in Guatemala during the week of January 26 to apply the water testing protocol developed during his previous visit.

Nationally, 41 states have a total of 458 suspect facilities, 362 facilities are currently being held, 79 control actions (destruction, disposal and disinfection) are complete, 68 facilities have been released, and more than 529,000 cuttings or plants have been destroyed, as of January 26.

The 2004 *Ralstonia* action plan is available at:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/ralstonia/rasltoniaactionplanv4web.pdf>

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Sudden oak death – New nursery find of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Washington State - A Washington State nursery has been determined to have plants infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*. The find was as a result of national survey sampling in a retail nursery located in Pierce County, Washington State. A group of three *Camellia japonica* plants, were found infected using

culturing and PCR. The Camellias in the block were removed (about a dozen plants are involved) cut up and double bagged along with the potting media and pots. Destruction is pending, either by incineration or deep burial at a local landfill. The infested block will remain on a 90 day hold, as per our protocol. Trace backs and trace forwards are being conducted. Determination of the mating type is planned.

Oregon takes action on imports from Europe of plants susceptible to *Phytophthora ramorum* - Oregon has found the European mating type of *P. ramorum* in several nurseries over the past year. Recently, the governments of the Netherlands and United Kingdom have reported finding *P. ramorum* infecting new species of trees in their countries. These include species of beech, oak, and horse chestnut. Interstate and imported shipments of these species are not yet regulated by APHIS. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) learned that a shipment of beech nursery stock had recently been imported from Europe into Oregon. As a precaution, ODA placed that shipment under quarantine and is requiring nurseries to notify them of any shipments in stock or received from Europe so that they may inspect and test them for presence of *P. ramorum*. Oregon is the largest shipper of nursery stock in the U.S.

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Tropical soda apple - The Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force (RTSATF) met January 22, in Tifton, GA. Al Tasker, National Weed Program Manager, Art Miller, Regional Weed Program Manager, and Phillip Bailey, Regional TSA Program Manager represented the National and Regional Program. A number of other APHIS-SPHDs and SOSOs attended. Updates were given regarding biocontrol and other program activities and the APHIS FY 2005 budget proposal was discussed. Minor revisions were suggested by the RTSATF. The group agreed to support the budget proposal.

Art Miller will be retiring in May. The Regional Weed Program Manager job has been advertised with a closing date of Feb 9, 2004.



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Legislative and Public Affairs has an inquiry from Representative Coble of North Carolina regarding the status of the contingency request from the Eastern Region for Tropical Spiderwort eradication in North Carolina. Al Tasker will work with them on the reply.

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Imported Fire Ant - An Industry Alert - "Pine Straw Retailers Protect Your Employees and Customers" has been issued to inform pine straw retailers of the possibility that the pine straw that is being sold as a landscaping product may be infested with Imported Fire Ants and poses a risk to employees and customers. This alert can be found at the following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/ia_pinestraw.html.

The notice has been distributed to State Plant Health Directors and state cooperators to inform retailers selling pine straw.

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